

**REMARKS**

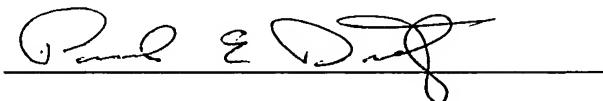
New claims 18-36 are pending in the application for the Examiner's review and consideration. Claims 1-17 were canceled without prejudice. New claims 18-36 simply rewrite canceled claims 1-17 to more clearly recite the invention. No new matter is added by these amendments. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that these claim amendments be entered.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider this application with a view towards allowance. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney if a telephone call could help resolve any issues.

No fee is believed to be due for this submission. If any fees are due, however, Please charge such fee to Pennie & Edmonds LLP Deposit Account No. 16-1150.

Respectfully submitted,

Date November 25, 2003



Paul E. Dietze (Reg. No. 45,627)  
For: Victor N. Balancia (Reg. No. 31,231)

**PENNIE & EDMONDS LLP**  
1667 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20006

(202) 496-4400